



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

May 30, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – WEST COVINA
FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY: CASA ESPERANZA TREATMENT
CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by West Covina Foster Family Agency. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center needs to repair the burners on the kitchen stove; include the placement workers in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans; develop Needs and Services Plans that include short term goals; provide educational support and resources for all children; and encourage and assist all children in maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Sukhwinder S. Gill, Executive Director, West Covina Foster Family Agency
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**West Covina Foster Family Agency
Casa Esperanza Treatment Center
1568 McLeod Place
Pomona, California 91768
Phone: (626) 814-9085
License Number: 197804217
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the rear burners on the kitchen stove do not work.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. West Covina Foster Family Agency management repair the rear burners on the kitchen stove.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

One Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was developed by the treatment team with input from the child. However, the other child's NSP did not include the placement worker or input from the child in the development and update of the NSP.

The NSPs are current, and include long term goals. However, they do not reflect short term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. West Covina Foster Family Agency management:

- a. Include input from the placement workers and the child in the development and update of the NSPs.**
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that include short term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. One child is provided with educational support, and is progressing satisfactorily in school. However, the other child is not provided with educational support and resources to meet her educational needs, and receives failing grades in her classes.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

3. West Covina Foster Family Agency management provide all children with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, are have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

One child is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book; however, the other child is not.

Recommendation

- 4. West Covina Foster Family Agency management encourage and assist all children in maintaining photo albums/life books.**



CASA ESPERANZA TREATMENT CENTER

1568 McLeod
Pomona, CA 91768

Facility #197804217

ATTACHMENT
Page 1 of 2

Tel: (909) 620-7543

Fax: (909) 865-3355

February 13, 2006

Candace Rhue, Group Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller,
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Casa Esperanza Treatment Center
Site Visit: January 10, 2006

Dear Ms. Rhue:

Enclosed is our plan of corrections for the site visit on January 10, 2006. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in providing valuable information in addressing these matters.

Sincerely,

Dolores Lucero
Administrator

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center
Corrective Action Plan

Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Casa Esperanza Treatment Center
Site Visit: January 10, 2006

Facility Environment Recommendations	Corrective Action Plan
West Covina Foster Family Agency management will repair the rear burners on the kitchen stove.	As of February 1, 2006, the facility has made all necessary adjustments to ensure that the rear burners of the kitchen stove function properly. The facility staff will monitor the stove to ensure that the burners function properly at all times.
West Covina Foster Family Agency management will: A) Include input from the placement workers and the child in the development and update of the NSP's. B) Develop comprehensive NSP's that include long and short term goals.	A) The facility Social Worker will ensure that they obtain input from the placement workers and the child in the development and update of the NSP's. B) The facility Social Worker will also ensure that the Group Home treatment team, residents and placement workers will meet every 3 months to review, develop and update the resident's short and long-term goals.
West Covina Foster Family Agency management will provide all children with educational support and resources.	The facility will ensure that the residents participate twice weekly in-home tutoring. In addition, the group home will continue to provide individualized incentives for the residents to motivate them in their academic endeavors.